

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany/Scandinavia/Egypt/Satellites

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SUBJECT East German Trade Agreements for 1953

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between

1. A trade agreement has been concluded Finland and East Germany for 1953 and, as in 1952, the exchange of goods will total about 7,000,000 dollars. Finland will supply timber and cellulose, for East German briquettes and machinery. This agreement was concluded by special request of the USSR, and exceptionally favorable prices were accorded to Finland.
2. Trade negotiations between the semi-official Swedish SUKAB Trade Company and Director Gustav Meyer of the DIA-Kompensation (DIA Barter) Department in East Germany were still pending. As in 1952, the total exchange of goods of the 1952 agreement was scheduled to be about 92,000,000 Swedish kronor. Only 30 percent of the 1952 trade agreement concluded between East Germany and Sweden was realized, because Sweden refused to accept certain East German products because of inferior quality and because the prices as stated in the agreement were found by Swedish firms to be excessively high.
3. In late December 1952, an East German trade delegation, with the consent of Moscow, went to Egypt in order to conclude a trade agreement which was considered of prime political importance. According to this agreement Egypt offered 20,000 tons of cotton in exchange for East German deliveries which would include sugar. The USSR was said to have renounced her share of these sugar supplies to enable East Germany to export to Egypt the required amount. Sulayman (fmu) was allegedly to be appointed representative of the new Egyptian Government in East Berlin.
4. In mid-December 1952, a trade agreement was concluded between Poland and East Germany after tedious negotiations. The volume of trade was to total 390,000,000 rubles for each country. According to the agreement, the 1953 East German deliveries to Poland would include machines, tools, pit props, basic chemical materials, and ammonium sulphate totalling 280,000,000 rubles. In addition, East Germany was to supply goods valued at 110,000,000 rubles to balance unfilled 1952 orders. In exchange Poland was scheduled to deliver 900,000 tons of hard coal, coke, 3,500,000 tons of hard coal, barley for breweries, and eggs and small quantities of grain to be used as fodder. East Germany was unable to obtain 1,200,000 tons of hard coal, coke and large quantities of rolled steel and nonferrous metal from Poland.

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and efforts were being made to meet these requirements by imports from the U.S.S.R. East Germany, on the other hand, was unable to supply to Poland the desired equipment for chemical plants, though the supplies had been provided for in long-term trade agreements in coordination with the Five-Year Plan. At first, the Poles even threatened to break off negotiations when the representatives of East Germany declined to deliver the equipment, and only the very able negotiation tactics of State Secretary Hans Paul Genter-Gillmans succeeded in getting them to sign. The East German economic schedule was allegedly hit particularly hard by the reduction of 300,000 tons of hard coal coke since the heavy industry will now have to produce 700,000 to 750,000 tons of brown coal briquettes. East Germany will pay 65 rubles per ton for the 900,000 tons of coke promised by Poland, though the world market price is 45 rubles per ton.

5. The East German trade negotiations in Moscow were conducted by Minister Kurt Gregor and the chief of the Main Foreign Currency Department Erich Remmeisen. There were special difficulties in obtaining the required supplies of nonferrous metals and forage from the USSR. In these talks, East Germany was also to reach agreement concerning a considerable number of unfilled Soviet orders.
6. East German trade negotiations with Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania had started. Talks with Hungary concerning the 1953 trade agreement did not progress.

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[REDACTED] Comment: No diplomatic representation exists at the present time between Egypt and East Germany. Sulayman is a common Near Eastern name.

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